



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RICHARD LUNDQUIST HONORED AS CHAMPION OF BUSINESS AT
CELEBRATION RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS
TO EL SEGUNDO'S ECONOMIC GROWTH**

***Supervisor Don Knabe to Serve as Master of Ceremonies with Special
Keynote from Los Angeles Rams' Kevin Demoff Thursday, Sept. 29***

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (August 25, 2016) -- The City of El Segundo and the El Segundo Economic Development Advisory Council ([EDAC](#)) will host the Champions of Business celebration to honor the contributions of business leaders across all industries on Thursday, September 29. The event will be held at the Performing Arts Center at Vistamar on 737 Hawaii Street in El Segundo from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

"This event will acknowledge the individuals and companies who significantly impacted El Segundo's economic development during this past year and we're delighted to have such esteemed honorees," said El Segundo Mayor, Suzanne Fuentes.

The Champions of Business celebration will honor Richard Lundquist, President of Continental Development Corporation as the 2016 Champion of Business for his dedication to the economic development efforts of El Segundo and his incomparable charitable contributions to organizations such as the El Segundo Education Foundation (Ed!), Torrance Memorial Medical Center, the LA BioMed Research Institute and others groups focusing on education, healthcare and the wellbeing of children.

In the last three years alone, El Segundo's vacancy rates are the lowest in the South Bay and there has been a 63 percent increase in rental rates, according to JLL Research. The city is also anticipating nearly 700 new hotel rooms before year-end to boost the area's growing hospitality industry. By the end of 2016, the city anticipates nearly 2,500 hotel rooms, a 37 percent increase from the year prior. El Segundo is also experiencing increased investment from companies in the bioscience industry.

"The City of El Segundo is in the midst of a transformation and Richard Lundquist has been an incredible part of the momentum we're seeing," said Al Keahi, current chairman of the city's Economic Development Advisory Council. "The last few years have been a testament of how bringing together the area's most respected business leaders— across a number of industries— has helped the vitality of our city."





The event's keynote speaker will be Los Angeles Rams' Kevin Demoff, COO and Executive VP of Football Operations. The Rams will open their 2016 regular season slate on the road for Monday Night Football on Sept. 12. In Week 2, the Rams return home for what will be the team's first regular-season home game in Los Angeles in 21 seasons.

"We're grateful to have Kevin Demoff of the Los Angeles Rams as our keynote speaker. We look forward to seeing the Rams boost the region's economic vitality and the surrounding neighborhoods with investment, philanthropy and most importantly, a local NFL team," adds Mayor Fuentes.

The master of ceremonies will be Supervisor Don Knabe, serving the Fourth District which runs from Marina del Rey and LAX through the South Bay, Los Angeles Harbor Region and the Gateway Cities to the southwestern San Gabriel Valley.

The winners of the following awards will be announced at the event:

- **Champion of Business Award**—awarded to a business or an individual who sets the standard for financial performance, innovation, leadership in their industry and a strong commitment to philanthropic efforts in El Segundo and beyond.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award**—awarded to individuals or businesses that, during their lifetimes, have made impactful contributions to the advancement of the region through excellent leadership.
- **Philanthropy Award**—awarded to a business or individual who demonstrates outstanding commitment to the community through direct financial support, development of charitable programs and leadership in philanthropy.
- **Big Idea Award**—awarded to an exciting business or organization that is reshaping the world through their innovations.

"This is an extraordinary time for El Segundo. As we look forward to our centennial in 2017, we're seeing significant investment, and new high-growth industries moving in throughout the city," said Barbara Voss, Economic Development Manager. "This event will honor our vibrant and diverse business community - from large corporations to small businesses, we are living up to our reputation as the Most Business-Friendly City in L.A. County."

ABOUT EDAC

The El Segundo Economic Development Advisory Council (EDAC) serves as a forum for effective collaboration leading to the identification of responsible development strategies in the city. EDAC exists to provide support and guidance to city staff and advise City Council on business attraction and retention. EDAC assists with the implementation of the City of El Segundo's Economic Development Program.

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